

Claims 6-8 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 over Ohsawa (U.S. Patent 5,847,218) or Watanabe (U.S. Patent 5,876,900) and further in view of Hada (U.S. Patent 5,929,271).

As discussed above, it is specifically acknowledged in the Office Action that the Ohsawa and Watanabe documents do not suggest a photoresist composition that contains a resin that is substantially free of aromatic groups. It is also apparently acknowledged in the Office Action that the Hada document does not disclose use of any type of amine additive. The position is nevertheless taken in the Office Action that it would have been obvious to substitute a resin of Hada into the systems reported in Ohsawa or Watanabe.

The rejection is traversed.

No suggestion would have existed to make the combination proposed by the instant rejection.

Hada -- the only document relied for a disclosure of a polymer without aromatic groups -- nowhere reports of an amine additive of any type.

Moreover, Oshawa and Watanabe both report that the described compositions can be imaged at 193 nm. See Ohsawa et al. at column 21, liunes 45-47 and Watanabe et al. at column 24, lines 54-56.

Clearly, then no incentive would have existed to attempt to import and substitute a single component of the Hada et al. system (i.e. a polymer) into the compositions of Oshawa or Watanabe, as has been proposed by the instant rejection.

That is, as understood, the instant rejection is premised on an assumption that a Hada polymer would have been imported into the Oshawa or Watanabe systems for 193 imaging. But the Oshawa and Watanabe systems both report that the described systems can be imaged at 193 nm. Why, then, would the skilled worker have made any substitution to those systems?

Moreover, Oshawa and Watanabe report a wide range of compounds. No particular incentive is seen to select any particular amine compound as recited in Applicants' claims.

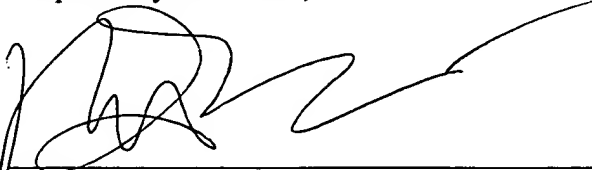
Indeed, comparative data of record demonstrates that the amines recited in the pending claims can provide significant performance differences relative to other additives. See, for instance, the comparative data set forth in Table 2 on pages 20-21 of the application.

While Applicants fully believe that a *prima facie* case under Section 103 is not presented by the cited documents, it is also believed that such comparative data of record effectively rebuts any such *prima case* that may be contended to exist.

In view thereof, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are requested.

It is believed the application is in condition for immediate allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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